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ace\_cub\_reportr



- November 2012

					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	<a href="#">10</a>	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

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[ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#)  
07 July 2009 @ 11:19 am  
This is pretty much my day.  
[Every day.](#)



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AD

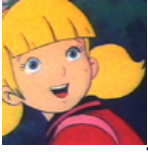


waterfront-property.abu-dhabi.realestate

Villas in Abu Dhabi from Eagle Hills

→

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[jennygadget](#) on July 7th, 2009 07:06 pm (UTC)

1st lesson of physics : it's all relatively

I suppose at least the colors are interesting

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[saoba](#) on July 7th, 2009 07:41 pm (UTC)

Oh my. That's quite something, that is.

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[supertailz](#) on July 7th, 2009 08:32 pm (UTC)

And I thought I had trouble telling blues and greens apart *before*. That's kind of brilliant.

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[ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#) on July 7th, 2009 09:40 pm (UTC)

Isn't it? I would swear by all I hold dear that *that's* blue, and *that's* green, and anyone who says otherwise is using up those last few little squares of absorbent paper they've hoarded since Woodstock.

Yet they're not.

Does the eyewitness see a white car because, at twilight against a background of evergreens, it doesn't look light blue?

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[supertailz](#) on July 7th, 2009 09:49 pm (UTC)

I never thought that costuming theatre and questioning witnesses would both come down to a question of lighting and contrast.

I keep looking at the image and expecting that now I *know* I'll be able to see it "properly" and each time it's still not.

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[jennygadget](#) on July 7th, 2009 10:21 pm (UTC)

I must have spent far too much of my childhood pouring over books about optical illusions, the physics of light, etc. bc I when I opened the link I was all "oh, of course! that makes sense." :)

re: lights and eyewitnesses, my dad - the physics and astronomy professor - was able to do a pull off a 12 angry men type scenario when he explained to the rest of the jury that they shouldn't completely discount the eyewitness testimony simply because they got the color of the car a little off. Dark blue cars do indeed look black when viewed at night under those awful yellow lights most older parking lots use.

I'm guessing they caved right about the time he started talking about the wavelengths of different colors.

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[ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#) on July 8th, 2009 04:28 pm (UTC)

Heinlein's Fair Witness, when asked what color that house was, should have said, "It *looks* white on this side."

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[zwol](#) on July 8th, 2009 07:00 am (UTC)

It gets even worse; have you seen the studies on the unreliability of episodic memory?

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[ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#) on July 8th, 2009 04:29 pm (UTC)  
Oh, dear. Any links?

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[zwol](#) on July 8th, 2009 05:00 pm (UTC)

The [Neurophilosophy](#) blog has talked about it on several occasions: see for instance "[Doctored photos create false memories](#)" and "[Reconstructive memory: confabulating the past, simulating the future.](#)"

For primary sources, start with [Elizabeth Loftus](#) at UC Irvine; she's got a ton of papers linked off her website, and one of her principal interests is eyewitness testimony and how it can be influenced after the event.

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[batwrangler](#) on July 7th, 2009 10:53 pm (UTC)  
You can't trust your eyes, and we \*know\* the camera lies.... It's kind of amazing we can figure anything out, really. :)

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